Boston April 2. 1838.

Dear Brother ~~Emerson~~

I understand that ~~father Holmes~~ has left, or is about leaving you, & that you are on the lookout for a successor. Permit me to recommend to you, my brother in law Moore, recently of Natick. His present address is Wrentham. He is ~~a~~ discreet, & at the same time decided & fearless. He is, in my judgment, much above the ordinary run of preachers. His sermons are sound & well written, & his manner of delivery, though not as earnest & impassioned as some men's, is yet good & impressive. I think he would make you an excellent minister. He is now at liberty & could come & preach for you almost any sabbath, if you should desire it. I hope you will at least give him a hearing. That can do no harm, & I should hope, on hearing him, that you would be pleased enough with him to retain him. He would prefer coming at first only for one sabbath, as an occasional supply, & not as a candidate. Should you then wish his services longer, you can make arrangements accordingly.

And now a word in respect to abolition. You are aware of the collision between the state & national societies –

– have seen, I suppose, the statement of the case in the "Christian Journal Extra" – & know that your county board have taken supervision of the field within your county & invited in the agents of the American Society, thus virtually taking sides with that society. Well, your county society is to meet soon in New Bedford, at which time & place I have no doubt an effort will be made, to undo what the county board have done, & to pass resolutions sustaing the state, & condemnatory of the county & Parent boards; & ~~unless I~~ what with the quakers & colored people in New Bedford it will not be strange if the attempt succeeds.

What your views on the matter in dispute are, I know not, nor is it of any importance for me to know, so far as it concerns what I wish now to say to you. I will only say there, as I cannot go now into the matter in detail, that I regard the Parent Committee in the right. They ought to be sustained. Nor do I believe that the state Board would ever have sent out their protest but for certain "ulterior measures" which they wished to accomplish thereby – one of these is to crush the Massachusetts Abolitionist, by shutting out of the state, the agents of the Parent Society, who are generally favorable to it, & where they can do it, without interfering with the duties of their agency, are in the habit of getting subscribers for it – another is to make the society anti-orthodox in its influence – and another, by having the entire control of the cause in the State, to take advantage of it for the promulgation of non-resistance – no government &c. &c. I can give you facts when I see you that will bear me out in all these positions. The truth is Garrison & the Board are themselves guilty of the very things they are charging on others. They are just in the attitude of the man who cries "stop thief" that he, under cover of that cry, may make off with the stolen goods. I hope to see you & converse with you at length on these subjects by & by. Meanwhile if you agree with me that the Parent Committee ought to be sustained, I

hope you will see that the meeting at New Bedford is not a packed one, but that those who think th with us, as well as others, are on the ground prepared to hear the case, & take proper action thereon should it come up. Remember me affecty to your family.

Yours truly

A. A. Phelps

P. S. Brother — ~~[illegible]~~ is a good abolitionist — but wise & prudent at the same time that he is firm & decided on the subject. Of course he would not make a *hobby* of it.

Such efforts & accusations as the above letter Mr Phelps did not hesitate privately to ~~make~~ put forth against his brethren of the board. And, even on resigning his seat with them one month after the date of this letter, he did not ~~expressed~~ intend that his reasons for doing so, should be made public. His own testimony, respecting similar allegations ~~given~~ presented as reasons for the formation of a new society, only a year previous, is ~~no less~~ true now. At the moment that this letter was written the Mass. Soc had

~~[illegible]~~ Right Orthodox agents in the field, & ~~not~~ but one of ~~any~~ another other belief. True the Society ~~thought~~ could not, without violating its principles, become an orthodox Society exclusively ~~no better of them for their orthodoxy~~, but the Society did deem it a fortunate circumstance ~~that that the orthodox members should see friend of Massachusetts~~ that orthodox pro-slavery, should be met & exposed by orthodox anti-slavery.

V who that reads Mr Phelps's testimony, Jan'y 1837, as given

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nal

Paid - Box 283

BOSTON APR 2 MS.

PAID

A.A.P.
Dea.

Emerson, (Teacher)
New Bedford,
Mass.

Ms.A.9.2.10 p.20